



## DVM POLICY

### Grading, Senior Practicum Evaluations Student Course Rank & Class Standing

#### I. Veterinary Medicine Course Grading Scale

Beginning with the DVM Class of 2016

≥ 89.5%	A
≥ 79.5% and < 89.5%	B
≥ 69.5% and < 79.5%	C
≥ 64.5% and < 69.5%	D
< 64.5%	F

Prior to and including the DVM Class of 2015

69.5 ≤ S < 100%
64.5 ≤ U/D < 69.5 %
F < 64.5%

**NOTE:** As per university policy, a course coordinator may choose to incorporate +/- grading. University guidelines for grading may be found at <https://registrar.colostate.edu/media/sites/29/2015/11/Grade-Received-GPA-chart.pdf> Course coordinators may modify these grading scales at their discretion. The grading strategy, whether conventional or modified, must be defined in the course syllabus.

GPA Calculation can be found at <https://secure.studentachievement.colostate.edu/GPATools/Home/TargetGPA>

#### II. Course Rank and Class Standing

**NOTE:** Each student is responsible for reviewing class standing/class rank for accuracy by verifying course points within the ranking site. Concerns regarding possible ranking errors should be reported immediately to the Associate Dean for Veterinary Academic and Student Affairs for investigation. Information found to be erroneous will be corrected up until the end of the subsequent semester; errors reported thereafter will not be corrected (i.e. an error tied to a spring course will be corrected through the following fall semester).

#### Ranked Veterinary Medicine Courses

Course rank and class standing will be determined for all students using the following courses:

##### First Year: Fall

VM606 - Veterinary Immunology  
VM616 - Functional Anatomy  
VM618 - Veterinary Physiology and  
Histology

##### First Year: Spring

VM619 - Veterinary Neurobiology  
VM623 - Veterinary Nutrition and  
Metabolism  
VM637 - Veterinary Bacteriology and  
Mycology  
VM638 - Veterinary Parasitology  
VM639 - Veterinary Virology  
VM640 - Biology of Disease I

##### Second Year: Fall

VM714 - Preventative Medicine  
VM722 - Veterinary Pharmacology  
VM724 - Bioanalytical Pathology  
VM735 - Animal Welfare  
VM741 - Biology of Disease II  
VM751 - Veterinary Clinical Toxicology

##### Second Year: Spring

VM733 - Principles of Surgery  
VM737 - Principles of Anesthesia  
VM742 - Biology of Disease III  
VM744 - Theriogenology  
VM745 - Clinical Sciences I  
VM747 - Clinical Sciences II

**Third Year: Fall**

VM728 - Principles of Imaging Interpretation  
VM749 - Clinical Sciences III  
VM753 - Clinical Sciences IV

**Third Year: Spring**

VM773 - Small Animal Medicine and Surgery I  
VM774 - Small Animal Medicine and Surgery II  
VM757 - Bovine Herd Medicine  
VM763 - Equine Medicine and Surgery I  
VM779 - Rational Antimicrobial Therapy

**Non-ranked Veterinary Medicine Courses (\*elective)**

The following courses will **not** be used to determine course rank and class standing:

**First Year: Fall**

VM603 - Veterinary Science: Research and Methods  
VM610 - Foundations of Veterinary Medicine I

**First Year: Spring**

VM611 - Foundations of Veterinary Medicine II  
VM648 - Food Animal Productions & Food Safety  
\*VM612 - Healer's Art  
\*VM621 - Exotic Animal Anatomy & Husbandry  
\*VM717 - Spanish for Rural Veterinarians I  
\*VM718 - Spanish for Rural Veterinarians II

**Second Year: Fall**

VM710 - Foundations of Veterinary Medicine III  
\*VM620 - Introduction to Spanish for Veterinarians  
\*VM707 - Emerging Issues in Infectious Diseases  
\*VM739 - Clinical Diagnostic Microbiology  
\*VM796J - Swine Medicine

**Second Year: Spring**

VM711 - Foundations of Veterinary Medicine IV  
\*VM612 - The Healer's Art  
\*VM716 - Principles of Shelter Veterinary Medicine  
\*VM717 - Spanish for Rural Veterinarians I  
\*VM718 - Spanish for Rural Veterinarians II

**Third Year: Fall**

VM786A - 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Practicum  
\*VM721 - Non-mammalian Vertebrate Medicine  
\*VM732 - Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation  
\*VM739 - Clinical Diagnostic Microbiology  
\*VM780A6 - Integrative Pain Management  
\*VM781A7 - Spanish for Rural Veterinarians III  
\*VM796J - Swine Medicine  
\*VM796R - Food Animal Clinical Problems

**Third Year: Spring**

VM786A - 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Practicum  
VM772 - Veterinary Professional Development  
\*VM775 - Veterinary Practice Management  
\*VM612 - The Healer's Art  
\*VM717 - Spanish for Rural Veterinarians I  
\*VM718 - Spanish for Rural Veterinarians II  
\*VM731 - Biology and Disease of Small Mammals

- \*VM777 - Feline Medicine
- \*VM781A8 – Spanish for Rural Veterinarians IV

**Fourth Year: Summer/Spring/Fall**

VM786B – 4<sup>th</sup> Year Practicum

**Calculation of Average Course Rank and Class Standings**

The majority of required didactic courses in years 1 – 3 of the DVM program are used to calculate students’ class standing. In response to questions about how class standings are determined, and why one’s class standing may be lower than rank in any individual course, please consider the following. Two statistics are calculated for each student. One is the **average course rank** weighted for course credits, much like a grade point average (GPA). The other is your actual class standing as one of 138 (number may vary by class) students in one’s class. The average course rank statistic appears smaller because course ranks are not adjusted for ties in individual course rankings, and advance every student's course rank accordingly. The philosophy is that a student should not be penalized because several individuals in the same class achieved identical point totals for assignments. For example, rank for an individual course in which there is a tie for third place would look like this: 1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 5, etc. Alphabetic order of students by last name plays no role in this process. The average course rank, then, ranges from 1 to  $x$ , where  $x$  may be smaller than class size. The average course rank is calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{AverageCourseRank} = \frac{\sum \text{CourseRank} \times \text{CourseCredit}}{\sum \text{CourseCredit}}$$

*Example:* 
$$\frac{[(VM606Rank) \times (3.0credits)] + [(VM616Rank) \times (8.0credits)] + \dots + [(VM786B Rank) \times (14.0credits)]}{3.0 + 8.0 + \dots + 14.0}$$

The second statistic, **class standing**, is based on the ordered listing of every student's calculated average course rank and ranges from 1 to 152 (number may vary by class). Using the example above, class standings with a tie in third would look like this: 1, 2, 3, 3, 3, 6, 7, etc. Average course rank and class standing will change slightly over time pending ongoing adjustments as students complete “Incomplete” courses or instructors identify grading errors.

This is one of several reasons why differences of a few points in any one course do not significantly affect overall class standing. Remember, the objective is to move away from worrying about small numbers of points for individual assignments, as well as to reduce concern about artificial breakpoints resulting in different letter grades. In the past, student ranks within a class were calculated based on letter grade point averages, which meant that individuals with points at the upper end of a letter grade received the same credit for their efforts as those with points at the lower end of a letter grade.

**Important note:** *GPA has not been calculated in the DVM curriculum for DVM Classes graduating in years 2005 to 2015. There is no method available to calculate GPA for DVM Students in these classes.*

If a student has been passing all courses and is not planning on advanced training after completing DVM training, class standing will have little bearing, if any, on career success. The College recommends that students focus on learning as much as possible with the goal of becoming the best veterinarian possible. If a student is planning on advanced training, your performance must be quantified for future applications for internships and graduate programs. However, class standing will be only one of several factors considered by institutions who review internship and other advanced training applications. Extracurricular experiences and letters of recommendation from instructors and clinicians who have come to know students well will also play a very important role.

### **III. Practicum Evaluations and Grading**

#### **Veterinary Medicine 4<sup>th</sup> Year Practicum Rotation Student Evaluations and Grading**

The primary goal of the student evaluation process is to continually improve the proficiency and skills of DVM students through feedback as to their performance. A secondary goal is to ensure that performance standards are met by each student for each rotation so that they meet or exceed the minimum proficiency expected for graduate veterinarians from Colorado State University. Following are guidelines to facilitate clarification of existing Scholastic Standards and 4<sup>th</sup> Year Practicum grading policies..

#### **Veterinary Medicine 3<sup>rd</sup>\* and 4<sup>th</sup>\*\*Year Practicum Rotation Student Evaluation Procedures**

Using the One45 evaluation form for the service/section, each student will be evaluated by appropriate service personnel (i.e. on service for that time period) at the end of that rotation (2-4 weeks). The evaluation form must be completed and submitted to the Practicum Coordinator within the Department of Clinical Sciences Office within 2 weeks of the end of the rotation using the One45 evaluation system. Any student showing indications of performing unsatisfactorily should be identified and alerted as early in the rotation as possible; specific critiques/comments should be made in written form and discussed with the student. If the student is in danger of failing, the student should be alerted to the possibility and this should be included in the written report. All students performing unsatisfactorily should be given specific performance benchmarks to define what is necessary for successful completion of rotation requirements. Any subsequent meetings or discussions should likewise be documented and conveyed in writing (electronically). All documentation should be sent to the Practicum Coordinator for tracking and record keeping purposes.

If a student receives an F/Fail /unsatisfactory grade for a rotation, the faculty overseeing the rotation will convey the grade and a written evaluation to the student and to the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Year Practicum Coordinator within one week of the end of the rotation. Within one week of receiving the information, the Practicum Coordinator must record the grade, return one copy of the full evaluation to the student, and inform the Associate Dean for Veterinary Academic and Student Affairs of the student's performance. The goal of this process should be to identify limitations, strategies for improvement, and resources required so that the student may optimize opportunities for success during the make-up rotation, if the grade did not result in dismissal from the program. The faculty member assigning the grade should inform the student that they must consult with the Practicum Coordinator to schedule a make-up rotation within eight weeks of receiving the failing grade, or as soon as is feasible, and that they may appeal the grade (see Scholastic Standards Policy Section IV). All communications are to be documented in writing for inclusion in the student record.

\*Beginning with the class of 2017, 3<sup>rd</sup> year students are evaluated using Pass/Fail grading.

\*\*Beginning with the class of 2024, 4<sup>th</sup> year students are evaluated using Pass/Fail grading.

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